

2
ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 51

U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT
6 February 1984

*Interview With
Attorney General
William French Smith*

Q This administration has taken strong steps to control unauthorized disclosure of information, including possible expanded use of lie detectors and new curbs on writings by former government officials. Why are such measures needed?

A Critics have charged that we are shutting down the government to the press and public, but that simply is not so. For example, the proposal on clearing published material would apply only to those who have access to the highest category of classified information. Under a CIA rule in effect for many years, former officials have submitted material for clearance on roughly 1,000 occasions. Changes had to be made about one fourth of the time, and seldom was there a fuss about it. The Supreme Court has approved this procedure.

The overall question involves where you draw the line between the public's right to know and protection of national security interests. We want to move the line only slightly.

EXCERPTED